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OAK PARK DRUG DEALER SENTENCED TO OVER 21 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that DARRELL E. ROBINSON, 42, a long-time resident of the Oak Park area of Sacramento, was sentenced today by United States District Judge Garland E. Burrell, Jr. to serve 262 months, (21.83 years) in federal prison. The defendant previously pleaded to the charge of Conspiracy to Distribute Cocaine Base ("crack cocaine") After Prior Felony Drug Offense Conviction. ROBINSON had six prior convictions for selling, or possessing with the intent to sell, cocaine base.

ROBINSON was arrested by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) on January 18, 2005, when he brought cocaine base to sell to a DEA informant to the Taco Bell restaurant on Broadway in downtown Sacramento. DARRELL ROBINSON's brother, TALTON ROBINSON, was sentenced in June 2006 to 262 months for his involvement in the cocaine trafficking conspiracy.

In sentencing ROBINSON, United States District Judge Garland E. Burrell stated, "This has been going on for years. It is evident that this defendant is bent on being in the illegal drug trafficking business. A significant sentence is needed to protect the public from the crimes of this defendant."

This case is the product of an extensive/joint investigation by the DEA Mobile Enforcement Team (MET), the Sacramento Police Department targeting drug traffickers in the Oak Park neighborhood of Sacramento. According to Assistant United States Attorney Anne Pings, who prosecuted the case, one of the purposes of this joint endeavor was to strategically enforce federal drug laws against individuals who, despite multiple prior convictions of similar drug trafficking crimes in state courts, continued to supply illegal drugs for sale in the local neighborhoods. When prosecuted in federal court, drug traffickers typically receive much harsher sentences. In addition to the longer sentences imposed, unlike state court prisoners who are released early on parole, there is no early release on parole in the federal system. After serving virtually their entire sentence, defendants in the federal system must also serve a period of supervised release in the community.

"After six prior convictions for selling crack cocaine, it is time for this defendant to be removed from the community for the protection of its law-abiding citizens. Enough is enough," said United States Attorney Scott.

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